



The Hospital Saturday Fund®

Charity Newsletter



The Hospital Saturday Fund®

 **ST. MICHAEL'S HOUSE**
Services For People With Disabilities
FOUNDATION



Supporting and Individual since 1873

www.hospital

Issue #20
Republic of Ireland
May 2026

Helping Your Community Since 1873

€2.8 Million To Be Donated in 2026

www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

In donations and grants to medically associated charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK, the Republic of Ireland, and Malta.

Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

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Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, Mark Davies, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund & David Mac Mahon, Account Executive, HSF Health Plan, with Ann O'Dwyer, Staff Member, Emma Ryan, Staff Member, Eilish McTeague, Service User, St Michael's House Foundation.

Follow up visit to see the hydrotherapy bath.

St Michael's House Foundation



Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, and Mark Davies, Trustee of The Hospital Saturday Fund, together with David Mac Mahon, Account Executive at HSF Health Plan, were delighted to revisit St Michael's House Foundation to see the Hydrotherapy Bath purchased through a €13,500 grant awarded in August 2025.

The state-of-the-art hydrotherapy bath is now providing vital therapeutic support to service users. During their visit, the team had the opportunity to see how this specialist equipment is already enhancing comfort, mobility, and overall well-being for individuals in SMH's care.

Established in 2024, St. Michael's House (SMH) was founded with a clear mission: to deliver high-quality social care supports and services, with a particular focus on empowering people with intellectual disabilities. Guided by a commitment to independence and community inclusion, SMH supports men, women, and children — along with their families — across the greater Dublin area.

Today, with a network of 170 locations, SMH provides person-centred care to approximately 2,000 individuals. The organisation continues to play a vital role in enabling those it supports to live fulfilling, independent lives within their communities.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity to witness the tangible difference that partnership funding can make — and to celebrate the shared commitment to improving lives through meaningful, practical support.

To find out more visit their website:
www.smhfoundation.ie



Cathal Nolan, GMC Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund, & Liz Yeates, CEO, Marie Keating Foundation.



Carol Murphy, GMC Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund & Nicole Duggan, Events and Content Manager, My Canine Companion.



Marie Keating Foundation

The Marie Keating Foundation was established in 1998 after Marie Keating, a mother of five, died from a treatable breast cancer at 51, having been unaware of early warning signs. Her family created the Foundation to ensure people across Ireland can access free, life-saving cancer information and support.

Today, it leads in cancer prevention, awareness, and patient support, offering education, guidance, and financial assistance to families.

The recent €13,500 grant will fund tools like "Fat Chunks," "Tar in the Jar," and "Sugar Test Tubes," supporting community nursing initiatives and delivering engaging cancer awareness workshops in schools, workplaces, and community groups.

To find out more visit their website:
www.mariekeating.ie



My Canine Companion

Founded in 2011 by Cliona O'Rourke and Niall Ruddy, My Canine Companion began in their Blarney, Co. Cork home and has grown into Ireland's largest provider of service dogs for children and young adults with autism. Now based in Blackpool, Cork, it delivers services nationwide, providing around 50% of the country's autism assistance dogs.

The organisation enhances lives through highly trained service and therapy dogs, promoting safety, independence, confidence, and emotional well-being in a family-centred way.

The €13,500 grant will support its Autism Service Dog Programme and School Therapy Dog Programme, helping children at home and in schools by improving inclusion, calmness, and support.

To find out more visit their website:
www.mycaninecompanion.ie



Laura Long, National Sales Manager Ireland, HSF Health Plan & Damian Moloney, Association Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund, with Anne O'Leary, Grants Coordinator & Claire O'Farrell, Crann Physiotherapist, Crann Centre.



Crann Centre

The Crann Centre was founded in 2018 by Kate Jarvey after she identified major gaps in services for children with Spina Bifida in Cork, Ireland. Following consultations with families, it was clear that fragmented care was leading to isolation and limited support.

Crann provides coordinated, person-centred services for people with neuro-physical disabilities and their families. Its multidisciplinary team now supports over 750 families across Munster, including those living with Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, and Muscular Dystrophy.

The €13,500 grant has funded physiotherapy equipment to launch an in-house Physiotherapy Programme, improving access to vital therapies and helping individuals build strength, independence, and confidence.

To find out more visit their Facebook page:
www.cranncentre.ie



Cathal Nolan, GMC Member, The Hospital Saturday Fund, with Eimear Kellet, Partnership & Philanthropy Manager, St Francis Hospice Dublin.



St. Francis Hospice

St. Francis Hospice Dublin

St. Francis Hospice, founded in 1989, provides specialist palliative care to people in North Dublin and surrounding areas. Its holistic, person-centred approach supports patients, families, and healthcare teams, with all services delivered free of charge and guided by dignity, respect, compassion, and excellence. The organisation also contributes to national palliative care through education, research, and innovation.

The €10,112 grant will fund equipment to enhance patient care and staff wellbeing, including three ShineVR-2 headsets to improve patient experience and reduce staff stress. It will also provide two riser recliner chairs to ensure comfort for patients of all sizes, strengthening occupational therapy services and staff resilience.

To find out more visit their website:
www.sfh.ie



Laura Long, National Sales Manager Ireland, HSF Health Plan with Sarah Ahern, Claire O' Loughlin, daughter Ellen, Beata Szymanska, Physiotherapist with Claire's son JP who is a service user at Down Syndrome Ireland Limerick Branch.



Down Syndrome Limerick

Down Syndrome Ireland, founded in 1971, supports families nationwide. Down Syndrome Limerick, based in Castletroy since 2008, is a vibrant, family-led community run by dedicated volunteers. It brings together children and adults with Down syndrome, along with their families, friends, and supporters.

Working collaboratively with families, professionals, and volunteers, the organisation provides support, creates opportunities, and improves everyday lives.

The €7,500 grant will fund a paediatric treadmill for the greater Limerick area. This specialised equipment will support safe, individualised gait training with adjustable settings tailored to each child's needs. Regular use will help improve strength, mobility, motor skills, confidence, and independence.

To find out more visit their website:
www.downsyndromelimerick.ie



Sharon Phelan, Operations Director & Brenda O'Neill, Operations Manager, HSF Health Plan, with Dermot Berry, Programme Manager, Shona Kavanagh, Project Worker, Louise Casey, Service Manager, Cratloe Respite Centre, Angela Fitzsimons, Project Worker, Extern Ireland.



Extern Ireland

Extern Ireland's Cratloe Respite facility, opened in June 2024 near Meelick, Co. Clare, providing individualised care for adults and children with neurodiverse needs. The modern centre includes en-suite bedrooms, a sensory room, arts and crafts and recreational spaces, a fully equipped kitchen, and accessible utility areas.

The €13,500 grant will support the development of an outdoor inclusive sensory playground, including essential groundworks. This will create safe, accessible pathways and secure fencing around the play area, allowing year-round use.

The project ensures children and young people can safely access outdoor play even in wet weather, enhancing wellbeing, inclusion, and therapeutic support.

To find out more visit their website:
www.extern.org

Individual Grant Updates

In 2025, we supported 35 individuals in Ireland with grants funding life-changing equipment and treatments, with grants ranging from €506 to our maximum grant of €3,000. Covering a wide range of equipment and treatments.

€620

56-year-old with spinal cord injury. The support went towards purchasing a front door smart lock, providing independent access to their home.

€707

28-year-old with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Towards the purchase of a byACRE Carbon Ultralight rollator.

€1,950

36-year-old with a spinal injury. The award-funded physiotherapy sessions, which incorporated exoskeleton-assisted walking.

€2,000

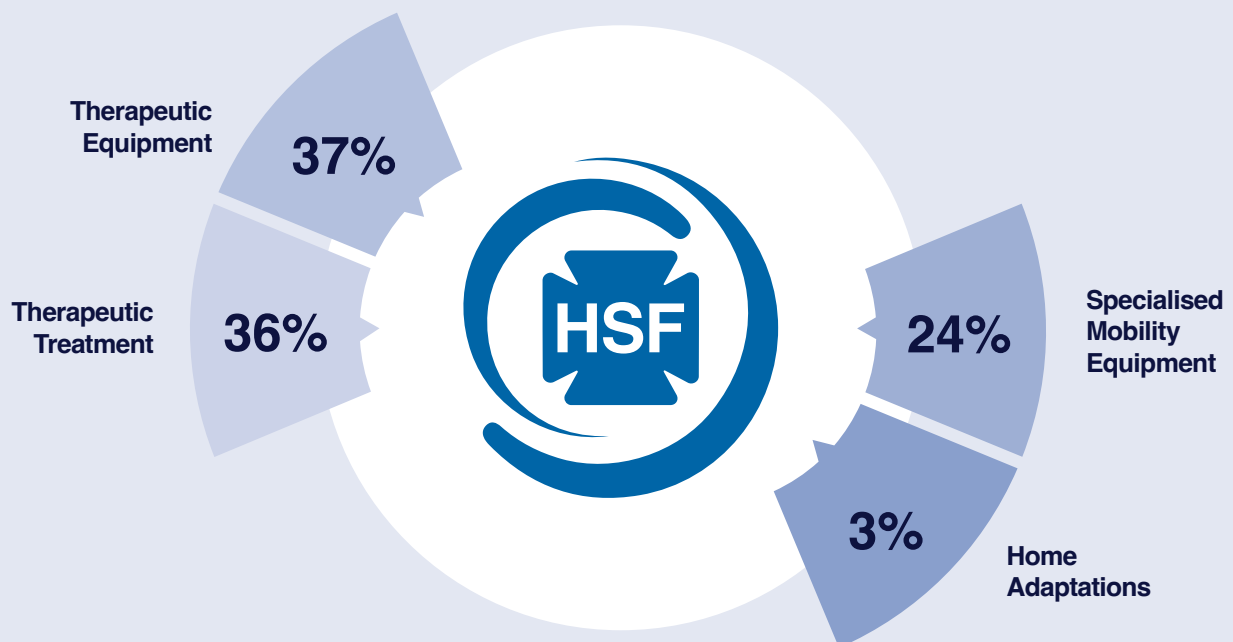
35-year-old with autism, bipolar disorder, and OCD. Contributed towards a recliner bed and a medical-grade bariatric mattress.

€3,000

56-year-old with spina bifida. The award covered the supply and installation of a bi-fold easy-access ramp to support transport to and from the day centre.

€3,000

42-year-old with cauda equina syndrome. The support enabled the purchase of a MOTomed Loop therapeutic exercise machine.



Individual Grant Feedback

Thank you to the HSF for funding my physiotherapy sessions. My everyday living has improved. The staff at Axon Rehab are very supportive of my injury, and I got the best possible treatment that could be given. I would love to continue my physiotherapy/rehab with them.

Lorraine, Spinal Cord Injury-Myelopathy



Thanks a lot to Spinal Injuries Ireland for being so helpful with my grant. It will help me on my journey for rehabilitation for the future and beyond. I would not be able to complete my physio and rehabilitation, if it wasn't for them. Also, thanks to HSF for giving me the grant to help with my rehab and my recovery. Thanks so much.

Liam, Spinal Cord Injury from a Spinal Stroke

I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, The Hospital Saturday Fund for funding my physiotherapy, this means so much for myself and my family and I am progressing very well. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart, Love, Wendy.

Wendy, Spinal Cord Injury-Guillain-Barré



About Us

The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people afford medical care. In recent times, the Fund has 'tailored' its benefits and these are now offered through HSF Health Plan, one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Profits from the trading company, HSF Health Plan, are channelled into the 'parent' charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, to enable charity donations to be made.

In 2026, The Hospital Saturday Fund will give €2.8 million in donations and grants to medically-associated charities, hospices, and hospitals across the UK, Republic of Ireland, and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

Grant Information

Application Deadlines and Grant Amounts

The Hospital Saturday Fund has two grant categories:

- Standard grants of up to £2,000 or €3,000 or
- Large grants to up to £10,000 or €13,500 (please note this is the maximum sum that HSF will grant).

Large grant applications should be towards specific projects, research or equipment rather than running costs. Organisations may make one application for a meeting and can apply for a standard or a large grant. The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly.

For how to apply, see The Hospital Saturday Fund's website for criteria and link to the online application form:

www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org

Applications should be submitted online by the close of business on the following dates:

GMC 05 February 2026

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 6 January 2026

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 9 December 2025

GMC 11 May 2026

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 13 April 2026

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 16 March 2026

GMC 11 August 2026

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 14 July 2026

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 16 June 2026

GMC 05 November 2026

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 8 October 2026

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 10 September 2026

GMC January 2027 (all dates for 2027 meetings to be confirmed in December 2026)

Standard Grants of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 5 January 2027

Large Grants of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 2 December 2026



The Hospital Saturday Fund®



Contact Us

We're Here to Help



hospitalsaturdayfund.org



020 7202 1365



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UK Registered Company Number: 6039284. UK Registered Charity Number: 1123381. Ireland Registered Charity Number: 20104528.